

THE
Miraculous Child:
OR,
Wonderful NEWS from
MANCHESTER.

A most true and certain Account, how one *Charles Benner*, a Child but Three years old (on the 22. of June 1679.) doth speak *Latine, Greek and Hebrew*, though never taught those Languages; and answers all Questions relating to the Bible, &c. In a wonderful manner.

And is now brought up to be presented to the KING.

Having all along on his Journey, been visited at *Covenry*, and other places, by most of the Ministers and other Learned men; to whom he gives such satisfaction; that they depart with Wonder and Amazement:

If any question the Certainty of this Relation, let them repair to *Mr. Nightingale's* at the *Bear Inn* in *West-Smithfield* (where this Child now resides) and they may be abundantly satisfied.

Reprinted, 1679.

1948

The above is a list of the names of the persons who have been
 appointed to the various positions in the various departments of the
 Government of the State of New York, for the year 1901.

17

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THE
Wonderful Child

OR
Strange News

FROM
MANCHESTER.

THe Holy Scripture witnesseth, that
God doth often reveal his strength,
and shew the glorious effects of his
power, out of the *mouths of Babes and sucklings*.
What we are here to relate, is certainly, as rare
and signal a dispensation of his providence, as
most that have appeared in our Age. And
this is concerning a Child, the Discourse and
wonder of all *Lancashire, Warwickshire*, and
parts adjacent: For that having never been
taught any but his mother Tongue; and be-
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ing in Truth of an age too young and incapable, to all humane apprehension, of being taught or instructed in any thing of Learning, being but three years of Age; and when he began first, not so much: he does yet freely and frequently speak *Latine, Greek, and Hebrew*, besides *English*, which he was bred unto: and answers Questions demanded of him, in any of those Languages.

The Name of this strange Child is *Charles Bennet*, the Son of one *Thomas Bennet*, an honest poor, industrious man in the Town of *Manchester*, and was born on the 22. day of *June*, in the year of our Lord 1676. so that two days before this last *Midsummer-day*, he was completely three years of age and no more; as not only by its Parents Affirmation, but likewise that of the *Church-book*, and the Testimony of many of their Neighbours, does most certainly appear.

As for the constitution and features of this Child, its countenance is very solid and composed; and considering its tender age (which usually is brisk and full of play) he seems somewhat inclined to Melancholy, yet hath a kind of Majestical Gravity even already appearing in

in his looks which is frequently attended with a modest smile: and when he hears people fall into excessive praises of, or wondring extremely at him, does commonly blush and reprove them desiring them to praise that God, and admire his power and goodness, who is the sole bestower of every good and perfect Gift and work. 'Tis commonly reported, that his mother when big with him, had several very strange dreams which did denote what a *prodigious* or *famous* Child she should bring into the World. But I would not relate any thing here, that is uncertain, or doubtfully told, but what is of approved Truth.

He had the use of his Tongue, and could prattle *English*, when he was but a year and a quarter old: but as for *Latine*, or any other Language, he was never taught any thing of that kind: For his Fathers Circumstances were far from being such as to be at that charge and expence. When he began first of all to speak other *Tongues*, cannot precisely be set down; for the parents do say, That they have often heard him speak words they could not understand; but believed it to be only a Childish Giberish. But about a quarer of a year ago, there

there was publick notice taken of him ; For one of his Relations being reading a Chapter, the Child observed that they read wrong ; and withal told them what was the Right ; and afterwards was heard by several that understood it to speak words of *Latine*, at which the Hearers were not a little surpris'd, both because of his age, and of his Education ; And upon a second demand in *Latine*, receiving a sensible and plain answer, they were more concerned ; and when one further Tryal, he was found not only to understand *Latine*, but likewise *Greek* and *Hebrew* too, they were wholly astonish'd ; and acquainting others with this rarity, the report thereof soon spread throughout all the Country ; and abundance of Ministers, Physicians, and Gentlemen that are Scholars come out of Curiosity to see and hear him ; which when they have done, they all confess that they never saw, heard of, or read the like.

'Tis said, one of the first things when he came to discourse in *Latine*, was that he must go to the King; for he had something to say to him: what it is, he will not, 'tis said, discover to any other: but desired he might be carried up to
London

London; which not being much taken notice of at first, he often repeated the same both in Latin, Greek and English, to several that came to visit him; who at last agreed, that it was very fit he should come up, and accordingly he is now on his Journey towards London; but cannot travel but a very little way in a day, because of the multitude that crowd to see him, and persons of Quality sending for him to their houses, but of the Road. He was lately at Coventry, where all the Magistrates came to see him, and heard him talk in the Languages aforesaid to several Ministers; whom he very freely converses with, and answers all questions out of the Bible, in a wonderful manner.

There are some people that would seem very wise, that imagine this Child is possessed, and that some evil Spirit answers for it, in this variety of Languages; but I can by no means yield to this their uncharitable opinion; as well, because possessions are always attended with some kind of pain, or disorder of the body, and oft-time distorting the Countenances of all which there is not in this Case the least sign; and further, because whatever this Child speaks

speaks, tends to promote piety and virtue, and discourage all kind of Wickedness. For his chief discourse is to admonish men to Repent, and amend their Lives; now, it is not likely that an Evil Spirit should speak so much against their own interests: We do therefore esteem it rather an extraordinary gift from God; and hope it will be a means to advance his Glory, that those who will not be reclaimed from their ill-lives by the ordinary Ministers of the Church, may at least be startled and awakened from their sins, to see this young, miraculous preacher, sent to call them to Repentance.

We have a Tradition of the famous *Andreas Boreas*, that he prophesied from his very infancy; & while some report him not to have been of humane Race, but begot by the Phantasm of *Apollon*; but these are but old wives tales; I cannot say this prodigious Child is a Prophet; and yet there, that several things he hath said, have afterwards come to pass. He came to London the 28th Instant, and is lodged at the Bear Inn in *Smithfield*, where hundreds have been to see him.

FINIS